

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ATHENS 00943 301939Z

46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11 EB-07 CIEP-01

COME-00 ( ISO ) W

----- 117935

P R 301840Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2424

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 943

EO 11652 NA

TAGS: XH GR PFOR

SUBJECT: BALKAN CONFERENCE

REF: ATHENS 722; ATHENS 95

SUMMARY: PM CARAMANLIS SET THE TONE FOR THE BALKAN CONF, WHICH COMMENCED JAN 26, BY REFERRING TO THE HELSINKI SPIRIT AND OBSERVING THAT GENERAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE TALKS TO IMPROVED REGIONAL RELATIONS WILL BE MORE SIGNIFICANT THAN ANY SPECIFIC DECISION TAKEN DURING ITS DURATION. MEANWHILE, THE TECHNICAL MEETINGS, IN FACT, APPEAR TO HAVE BOGGED DOWN SOMEWHAT OVER PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS. THE TALKS ARE SCHEDULED TO CONTINUE UNTIL THE MIDDLE OR END OF NEXT WEEK, AT WHICH TIME THE EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW UP WITH A MORE DETAILED REPORT.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ATHENS 00943 301939Z

END SUMMARY.

1. THE MEETING OF EXPERTS ON ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG BALKAN STATES SWUNG INTO GEAR ON MONDAY JAN26. PM CARAMANLIS UNDERSCORED HIS PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE CONFERENCE AND IN IMPROVED REGIONAL RELATIONS BY RECEIVING DELEGATION LEADERS ON OPENING DAY. CARAMANLIS PRAISED BALKAN GOVTS FOR THEIR READINESS TO RESPOND TO THE GREEK INVITATION, AND CITED THE CONFERENCE AS A PRACTICAL MANIFESTATION OF THE HELSINKI SPIRIT. HE PROBABLY SUMMED UP THE SENTIMENT OF ALL PARTICIPANTS (AND OBSERVERS) VIS A VIS THE VALUE OF THE MEETINGS WHEN HE STATED THAT HE "ATTACHE GREATER IMPORTANCE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CLIMATE OF FRIENDSHIP AND MUTUAL CONFIDENCE BETWEEN OUR PEOPLES THAN TO ANY SPECIFIC DECISIONS" WHICH MIGHT EMERGE.

2. COORDINATION MIN PAPALIGOURAS OPENED THE ACTUAL CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS WITH CALL FOR DEVELOPMENT OF CLOSER COOPERATION BETWEEN THE PARTICIPATING STATES. ALSO INVOKING HELSINKI, PAPALIGOURAS STATED THAT DIFFERENCES IN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS SHOULD NOT BE OBSTACLE TO THE COOPERATIVE RESOLUTION OF COMMON PROBLEMS, AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT MEETINGS WOULD CONSTITUTE A USEFUL STEPPING STONE TO NEW COMMON ENDEAVORS.

3. THE OPENING STATEMENTS BY THE HEADS OF THE VISITING DELEGATIONS ECHOED THE SENTIMENTS OF CARAMANLIS AND PAPALIGOURAS - WITH FREQUENT REFERENCES TO THE SPIRIT OF HELSINKI. SPEAKING FOR TURKEY, AMB GORKEN (MFA DIRGEN FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS) OBSERVED THAT IMPROVEMENT IN BILATERAL AFFAIRS WOULD BE THE BEST ROUTE TO BETTER MULTILATERAL RELATIONS. THE STATEMENT OF THE YUGOSLAV DELEGATE (FINANCE UNDERSECRETARY VIDAS) WAS PERHAPS THE MOST ENTHUSIASTIC; "ATHENS WILL BE REMEMBERED IN THE HISTORY OF THE BALKANS AS THE CITY IN WHICH THE FOUNDATIONS OF NEW RELATIONS AND MORE CONSTRUCTIVE INTER-BALKAN COOPERATION WERE LAID." ROMANIAN CFONMIN MACOVESCU (WHO IS NOT ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE) WAS QUOTED IN LOCAL PRESS WITH PERHAPS THE WEEKS MOST PREMATURE OBSERVATION SAYING THAT "ROMANIA FAVORED CLOSER COOPERATION IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ATHENS 00943 301939Z

BALKANS, BUT THIS SHOULD NOT LEAD TO THE CREATION OF A BALKAN BLOC."

4. FROM INFO WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GLEAN FROM GREEK SOURCES, MR MACOVESCU CAN RELAX. WHILE THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF RHETORIC, WORKING MEETINGS HAVE APPARENTLY BOGGED DOWN ON A VARIETY OF PROCEDURAL ISSUES. FOR EXAMPLE, AS OF THURSDAY, THE AGENDA HAD NOT BEEN

FINALIZED, AND THERE WAS A PROLONGED EXCHANGE OVER THE CONFERENCES WORKING LANGUAGES. (THE GREEKS PROPOSED FRENCH AND ENGLISH AS THE WORKING LANGUAGES WHEREUPON THE BULGARIANS COUNTERPROPOSED THAT RUSSIAN BE ALSO INCLUDED. HOWEVER, FOR TECHNICAL REASONS THEY ENDED UP WITH FRENCH AND ENGLISH.)

5. THE TALKS ARE EXPECTED TO LAST THROUGH THE MIDDLE OR END OF NEXT WEEK, CONCLUDING WITH A PUBLIC SESSION. MEANWHILE, HOWEVER, THE CONFERENCE RECEIVED WIDE AND FAVORABLE PLAY IN THE GREEK MEDIA LAST WEEKEND AND THROUGH THE EARLY PART OF THE WEEK. THE PRESS WAS GENERALLY POSITIVE IN ITS COVERAGE BUT REALISTIC OVER POTENTIAL DIRECT RESULTS OF CONFERENCE. AS CONFEREES TURNED TO CLOSED WORKING SESSIONS IN MID-WEEK, PRESS ATTENTION WANED.  
KUBISCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BALKANS, CONSULTANTS, NUCLEAR FREE ZONES, MEETING REPORTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976ATHENS00943  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760036-0895  
**From:** ATHENS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t1976017/aaaaafao.tel  
**Line Count:** 132  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 ATHENS 722, 76 ATHENS 95  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 12 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <12 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 APR 2004 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BALKAN CONFERENCE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, XH, GR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006